

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH

of the

Rural District of Thornbury

for the Year 1952

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,

Castle Street,

Thornbury.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1952

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report to you for your consideration.

The Report is based in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 of the 22nd January, 1953. This refers to Articles 6(3) and 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Article 14(3) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, and requests that the Council will direct that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health should follow the general lines indicated and include the information also asked for in Circular 42/51 dated 10th December, 1951.

In relation to the General Health of the District during the year, this has been excellent. We have had the lowest number of notified cases of Infectious disease since I joined the Authority as Medical Officer of Health. During 1951, the figure of notified cases was 596—this year it is the very low total of 202.

There has been no epidemic of any significance except for a minor one in Hortham Colony, Almondsbury, where twenty-two patients were affected with a mild Scarlet Fever.

During the year 276 people died who belonged to the District. However, the average age of death has again increased from 65.22 years to 69.3 years, so my forecast last year that we would soon step into the seventy year old group is not far out. 136 of the 276 deaths were those of females, and it is a revealing figure that the average age of death of females during the year was 75.9 years. If this trend of events continues it may be of some significance to Public Health Authorities as more female beds may be required for Chronic Sick old ladies in the future. 43% of the deaths occurred in Hospitals or Institutions, which shows that the day is not far distant when few chronic sick or seriously ill patients will be nursed in their own homes.

During 1952 the Council has made considerable progress in housing but it is unfortunate that most of the houses that are now being built in the District are in the urbanised areas of Thornbury and Patchway. I do feel that it is a shame to have to take the younger generation away from the surroundings of the lovely Gloucestershire villages because of lack of proper amenities for the

building of houses. The result of this is that the villages are becoming depopulated with young people and so the village schools are gradually disappearing. I am quite certain that these young people who are moving compulsorily to urbanised areas will in future years miss the community spirit that still exists in these Gloucestershire villages.

This may however be remedied, before it is too late, as during the year considerable progress was made in sewerage and mains water supply. The Northern Water Scheme, which, when completed, will cover the most populated parts of the parishes in the north of the District, made good progress during the year. Stage II was completed and Stage III commenced. This Scheme should therefore be completed during 1953 except for small additional lines of mains which may be considered necessary from time to time.

It is hoped that the further extension asked for to supply the Sharpness Docks with a wholesome supply of water will come to fruition during 1953.

The other scheme of the West Gloucestershire Water Company to supply the Southern parishes of the District was started during the year and the water from the source at Alderley should be mobilised and ready for distribution during the next year. It only remains now for the Ministry, County Council, District Council and Water Company to come to terms concerning the financial arrangements and priorities for the supply of water to the Southern Area to go ahead.

In relation to Sewerage Schemes, again, some considerable progress has been made. The Sharpness Scheme was completed during 1952. The Severn Beach Scheme started in 1952 and should be completed early in 1953. The extensions to the Thornbury Sewage Works also commenced during the year and should be completed by mid 1953.

The Berkeley and Alveston Schemes are still with the Ministry, but due to restriction on capital expenditure the Ministry have not yet seen their way to give a starting date for either. There is no doubt in my mind, as Medical Officer of Health, that both these schemes are very necessary and should be granted at the earliest possible date.

The Consultant Engineers have been asked by the Council to prepare detailed schemes for sewerage of the following areas: 1, Charfield; 2, Wanswell Green; 3, Almondsbury; 4, Olveston; 5, Cromhall. Numerous public health nuisances exist in all these areas, but until such time as the economic situation of the country improves, there seems little likelihood of these other schemes being granted. In the meantime it looks as if the villages affected will have to make the best use of those amenities that are available, and

there is no reason why private landlords, the Council and private owners of property should not make efficient use of properly constructed septic tanks, cesspits and small sewage disposal plants until these schemes materialise.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector will be reporting to you on other branches of the work of your Public Health Department, so it remains for me to express again my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to me during the year by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and of the Staff of the Public Health Department and other Departments of the Council for their support and loyalty during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant.

W. J. DOUGLAS COOPER,

Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thornbury Rural District Council.

PART I.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No important change has taken place in the nature of the chief trades carried out in the District. These are :

- (1) Agriculture and Allied Trades.
- (2) Sharpness Docks and Ship Building.
- (3) Quarrying.
- (4) Brick and Tile Manufacturing.
- (5) Caravan Building.
- (6) Braid and Loom Elastic Smallwares.
- (7) Salmon Fisheries.
- (8) Flour Mills.
- (9) Baking.
- (10) Aircraft Engineering.

2.—STATISTICS, 1952

(a) General Statistics

Area of District	...	...	...	...	61,337 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	25,310
Number of Inhabited Properties	...	...	...	...	7,059
Number of Inhabitants per Property	...	...	...	...	3.58
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£132,383
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£530
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	1,071
Number of Requisitioned Houses	...	...	...	...	7
Percentage of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	15.2%

Inhabited Properties

Huts at Squatters' Camps	...	...	...	...	7
Houses	...	...	...	...	6,220
Farms	...	...	...	...	521
Houses and Shops	...	...	...	...	240
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	71

7,059

Percentage of population served by Main water 70%

Percentage of population served by modern sewers 49.2%

Varying Populations of Thornbury Rural District :

Year	Population
1891	16,542
1905 (Parish of Henbury taken in)	18,419
1913	19,223
1919	17,478
1938	19,480
1939	20,470
1940	23,339

1941	...	...	...	...	...	24,610
1942	...	...	...	...	...	24,440
1943	...	...	...	...	...	23,730
1944	...	...	...	...	...	22,990
1945	...	...	...	...	...	22,790
1948	...	...	...	...	...	25,590
1950	...	...	...	...	...	25,180
1951	...	...	...	...	...	25,410
1952	...	...	...	...	...	25,310

(b) Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births :

				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...		388	207	181
Illegitimate	...	...		17	8	9
Total	...	...		405	215	190

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population mid 1952 16.00

Comparability factor for Birth ... 1.06

Therefore Birth Rate (comparable)= 1.06 x 16.00
=16.96

Birth Rate, England and Wales per 1,000 Civilian
Population ... 15.3

Still Births :

				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...		8	4	4
Illegitimate	...	...		—	—	—
Total	...	...		8	4	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... 0.31

Still Birth Rate, England and Wales per 1,000
Civilian Population ... 0.35

Marriages :

Number of Marriages taking place in Registry Office during 1952	...	...	...	...	40
Number of Marriages taking place in Churches and Chapels	...	...	...	...	102
Total	...	...	...	...	142

Marriage Rate per 1,000 mid-year population=5.6

Deaths :

Number of Deaths registered in Thornbury Rural District	...	...	...	...	276
140 Male deaths and 136 Female deaths.					

This makes the crude Death Rate per 1,000			
Civilian Population	...	...	10.90
Death Rate, England and Wales per 1,000			
Civilian Population	...	...	11.3
Comparability Factor for Deaths	...	...	1.03
Therefore Death Rate (comparable)= 1.03 x 10.90			
= 11.22			
Death Rate in 160 County Boroughs and Great			
Towns (including London)	...	...	12.1
Death Rate in 160 Smaller Towns	...	...	11.2
Death Rate in London Administrative County	...	...	12.6
The average age of Male Deaths in Thornbury			
Rural District during the year was	...	...	62.8 yrs.
The average age of Female deaths during the			
year was	...	...	75.9 yrs.
Making the average age of all Deaths during			
the year in Thornbury R.D.	...	...	69.3 yrs.

Number of Women Dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth :

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Other Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)					
...	...	...	...	...	Nil

This rate has been nil for the past five years and speaks highly of the care given to the mother during childbirth by the local midwives, General Practitioners, Hospitals and Nursing Homes.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	12	8	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	12	8	4
			—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	9	7	2
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	9	7	2
			—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate :

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per			
1,000 live births	...	...	29.60
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	27.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	30.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil

Causes of Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
F.	8/12	Broncho Pneumonia
F.	1 day	Cardiac failure, cerebral haemorrhage.
M.	3/12	Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomit.
M.	2 hours	Prematurity and congenital malformations.
M.	13 hours	Prematurity and congenital malformations.
F.	11/12	Broncho Pneumonia.
M.	3 days	Prematurity and malformations.
M.	2 days	Congenital heart disease.
M.	5 days	Prematurity and Cerebral haemorrhage.
F.	1 week	Prematurity and Kernicterus.
M.	3 days	Prematurity and respiratory failure.
M.	2 weeks	Broncho Pneumonia and liver enlargement.

CANCER DEATHS

Cancer of Stomach	...	...	12 cases
Cancer of Breast	...	...	5 cases
Cancer of Rectum	...	...	3 cases
Cancer of Bronchus and Lung	...	...	3 cases
Cancer of Colon	...	...	3 cases
Cancer of Pancreas	...	...	3 cases
Cancer of Bladder	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Heart	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Prostate	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Cervix	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Ovary	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Skin	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Brain	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Parotid Gland	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Larynx	...	...	1 case
Cancer of Unknown Origin	...	...	1 case
Total	...	...	39 cases

21 males and 18 females — 39 cases.

Average age of all Cancer deaths=65.9 years.

CORONARY DEATHS

32 deaths from Coronary Thrombosis, disease of the Coronary arteries, Angina, or other allied conditions occurred during the year.

22 of these were in males and only 10 in females.

Average age of coronary deaths is 65.8 years.

MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease (not including coronary disease or hypertensive heart disease)	70 cases
Vascular Intracranial Lesions	53 cases
Cancer	39 cases
Coronary Disease including Angina	28 cases
Hypertension with Heart Disease	13 cases
Pneumonia	13 cases
Accidents	8 cases
Tuberculosis	7 cases
Nephritis and Nephrosis	6 cases

DEATHS IN MONTHS OF THE YEAR

January	28
February	19
March	31
April	25
May	20
June	18
July	15
August	22
September	16
October	22
November	26
December	34
Total	276

This table shows that November, December, January and March were the worst months with December showing the highest mortality.

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

0— 1 years	8	4
2— 5 years	Nil	Nil
5—10 years	Nil	Nil
10—20 years	Nil	Nil
20—30 years	2	2
30—40 years	5	4
40—50 years	10	3
50—60 years	18	17
60—70 years	31	22
70—80 years	38	40
80—90 years	25	40
90-100 years	3	3
Over 100 years	Nil	1
Total	140	136

From these figures it can be seen that 85% of the Thornbury Rural District deaths during 1952 occurred when the person was over 70 years of age. There were 6 deaths over 90 and one old lady reached the marvellous age of 103.

The average age of deaths for females in the district is a phenomenal figure—75.9 years. If this average continues it may be of importance in the reorganisation of beds for chronic old sick in hospitals and also show the need for more hostel places for women than men.

DEATHS IN HOSPITALS OR NURSING HOMES

Cossham Memorial Hospital	...	...	2
Southmead Hospital	...	...	23
Standish House Hospital	...	...	1
Horton Road Hospital	...	...	3
Bristol Royal Infirmary	...	...	6
Snowdon Road Hospital	...	...	1
Coney Hill Hospital	...	...	3
Frenchay Hospital	...		4
Homoeopathic Hospital	...	...	2
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital	...	...	1
Royal Hospital, Gloucester	...	...	4
Stapleton Hospital	...	...	7
Ham Green Hospital	...	...	1
Bristol Maternity Hospital	...	...	1
Rosehill Nursing Home	...	...	1
Taunton Hospital	...	...	1
St. Mary's, Bristol	...	...	1
Bristol Eye Hospital	...	...	1
Polish Hospital, Penley	...	...	1
Min. of Pensions Hospital, Liverpool	...	...	1
Bristol Children's Hospital	...	...	1
Oakes Hospital, Bristol	...	...	1
Bristol General Hospital	...	...	1
Thornbury Hospital	...	...	34
Almondsbury Hospital	...	...	13
Berkeley Hospital	...	...	6
Total	...	...	121

Thus the percentage of Deaths in this District occurring in Hospitals and Nursing Homes is 43%.

DEATHS—Analysis of Causes and Age Groups.

Causes of Deaths		Age Group							Total
		Under 1 yr.	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
1.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1							
2.	Other forms of tuberculosis	2				2	2		1
3.	Syphilitic disease	3				1	1		
4.	Diphtheria	4							
5.	Whooping Cough	5							
6.	Meningococcal infections	6							
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	7							
8.	Measles	8							
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	9							
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	10					6	2	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lungs and bronchus	11					4	3	
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	12						1	
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	13				1			
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14					7	6	4
15.	Leukemia, aleukemia	15				1		1	
16.	Diabetes	16							
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	1			1	13	13	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	18					5	9	25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	19					5	2	14
20.	Other heart disease	20					18	12	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	21				1			38
22.	Influenza	22					1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	23	3				4	3	1
24.	Bronchitis	24							3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	25					2	2	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	26					2		2
27.	Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	27							
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	28							
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	29			1	1	4		1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	30							
31.	Congenital malformations	31	3						
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	32	1			3	2	1	7
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	33					1		
34.	All other accidents	34	1		1	4		1	
35.	Suicide	35							
36.	Homicide and operations of war	36							
TOTALS									276

DEATHS IN PARISHES

Alkington	...	...	...	...	5
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	59
Almondsbury	...	...	...	...	16
Easter Compton	...	...	...	...	6
Hallen	...	...	...	...	6
Patchway	...	...	...	...	31
Alveston	...	...	...	...	22
Aust	...	...	...	...	2
Aust	...	...	...	...	1
Littleton-on-Severn	...	...	...	...	1
Berkeley	...	...	...	...	26
Charfield	...	...	...	...	11
Cromhall	...	...	...	...	6
Falfield	...	...	...	...	3
Ham & Stone	...	...	...	...	8
Hill	...	...	...	...	1
Hinton	...	...	...	...	13
Sharpness	...	...	...	...	13
Oldbury-on-Severn	...	...	...	...	8
Olveston	...	...	...	...	19
Rangeworthy	...	...	...	...	8
Redwick & Northwick	...	...	...	...	26
Pilning	...	...	...	...	17
Severn Beach	...	...	...	...	9
Rockhampton	...	...	...	...	2
Thornbury	...	...	...	...	41
Tortworth	...	...	...	...	1
Tytherington	...	...	...	...	15
Total	...	...	...	...	276

OUTWARD AND INWARD TRANSFERABLE DEATHS

98 Deaths occurred in the District which were transferable to other areas according to their place of residence. 92 of these took place in hospitals—75 in Thornbury Hospital, 6 in Berkeley Hospital, 5 in Almondsbury Hospital and 6 in Hortham Hospital. This figure shows that the Hospitals situated in this Rural District do not only serve us but a much wider area.

76 of the deaths belonging to Thornbury Rural District actually took place in hospitals outside the District and were thus inward transferable deaths.

This again emphasises how the regionalisation of the hospitals has changed the scene. Some years ago, if a patient could not be treated in the local hospital they just remained at home to die.

COMPARATIVE TABLES FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Thornbury R.D.	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Average Age of Death	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1947	23,920	243	10.1	—	465	19.4	—
1948	25,590	248	9.7	62.7 yrs.	421	16.4	19.0
1949	25,570	246	9.7	64.4 yrs.	420	16.4	38.0
1950	25,180	222	8.8	61.42 yrs.	364	14.4	21.9
1951	25,410	311	12.59	65.22 yrs.	364	14.32	32.9
1952	25,310	276	11.22	69.3 yrs.	405	16.96	29.6
England & Wales, 1952	—	—	11.3	—	—	15.3	27.6
Gloucester County 1951	433,500	5,195	11.98	—	6,732	15.53	26.0
Thornbury R.D. 1920	17,447	—	—	—	434	24.5	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN PARISHES — 1952

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Measles	Anterior Poliomylitis	Food Poisoning	Meningitis	Whooping Cough	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Total
Alkington	29	2	3		6	17	1			15		4
Almondsbury	..	..	9							6		78
Alveston ..	..	..										6
Aust ..	..	..										
Berkeley ..	..	5	7			5				1	1	19
Charfield	..	..	1							1		2
Cromhall	..	..								10		11
Falfield ..	1	..								5		5
Hamfallow	..	..	1									1
Ham & Stone	..	..	2									1
Hill ..	..	..										2
Hinton ..	3	..	8			6				1		18
Oldbury	..	..				3						3
Oveston	1	..				2				1		4
Rangeworthy	1	..										1
Redwick & Northwick	13	..						1	2	3		19
Rockhampton	..	..										
Thornbury	..	1	5	1		2				14	1	24
Tortworth	..	..										
Tytherington	1	..								4		5
TOTAL	49	8	36	1	6	35	1	1	2	61	2	202

INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS — 1952

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 yrs.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	6—9 yrs.	10—14 yrs.	15—19 yrs.	20—34 yrs.	35—44 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65	Age Un- known	Total
Scarlet Fever ..			1	4	14	13	4	5	3	2	3			49
Diphtheria ..														
Puerperal Pyrexia ..									8					8
Erysipelas ..												1		1
Pneumonia ..	5	1	2		2	2	2		4	5	8	4	1	36
Dysentery ..					1	1	2	1			1			6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2													2
Anterior Poliomye- litis ..	1													1
Malaria ..														
Whooping Cough ..	5	7	6	8	16	13	3			1	1		1	61
Measles ..		3	7	6	7	9	1	1			1			35
Meningitis ..		1								1				2
Typhoid ..														
Food Poisoning ..	1													1
TOTALS	14	12	16	18	40	38	12	7	15	9	14	5	2	202

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION STATE — THORNBURY R.D. 1952

This scheme has continued to progress, thanks to the co-operation of the General Practitioners, District Nurses, Health Visitors and School Teachers, not to speak of the parents.

Age at 31.12.52 <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5—9 1943—47	10—14 1938—42	Total under 15
Number Immunised	21	205	255	216	207	1441	1392	3737
Estimated Mid-year Child Population 1951	Children under 5 2,058						Children 5—14 3,867	5,925
Percentage Immun- ised in Thornbury R.D.	43.9%						73.2%	63.0%
Percentage Immun- ised in County	53.3%						68.2%	63.0%

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

General Remarks :

During the year, Thornbury Rural District has been relatively free from Infectious Diseases—in fact, since I became Medical Officer of Health to this District Council, 1952 has been the best year, by far, in relation to notifications of Infectious Disease.

It may be interesting here to compare the numbers for the past six years.

Year	No of Cases of Infectious Disease notified by General Practitioners	No. of cases of Measles notified by General Practitioners
1947	506	392
1948	479	180
1949	576	470
1950	391	82
1951	596	454
1952	202	35

It will be seen from the Infectious Disease Table that the three most prevalent diseases were in order of numbers :

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	61 cases
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	49 cases
Pneumonia	...	...	...	36 cases

There was no major epidemic of any kind even in relation to these three diseases and the cases occurred sporadically all over the district during the year.

It is interesting to note from the table that I have just presented to you, the presence of a biennial epidemic of Measles in this District—the figure of 35 for this year is quite phenomenal even in a non-epidemic year, and it looks as if we will have a roaring epidemic of the disease during 1953 as there will be so many children under five years of age who have not had the infection.

The figure of 202 cases of infectious disease during the year is only 50% or less of the numbers for any previous year since 1947.

Since 1947 there has been no death from Diphtheria nor has there been any notification of this disease since 1949. In 1947, 3 cases were notified, in 1948 there were 2, and in 1949 one was notified, and none since.

During 1951 in the whole County of Gloucester there was only one notification and no deaths from this disease. This speaks well for the merits of Diphtheria Immunisation but unfortunately mothers are becoming too placid about the position as most of them have forgotten what a case of Diphtheria really looked like.

We must never forget the menace that Diphtheria was only a few years ago, and if the present inertia continues in relation to

Diphtheria Immunisation, we may see the disease back in our midst with its old virulence.

The percentage of children under 5 in this District who have been immunised is now only 43.9%. The percentage of children between the ages of 5 and 15 who have been immunised is 73.2% making the percentage of all children under 15 who have been immunised as 63.0%. This is a similar figure to that of the County as a whole. Some authorities on this subject suggest that 75% is a safe level to prevent any further outbreaks of epidemic proportions. We are gradually falling well below this figure as can be seen by the low level for the under "5's". The figure I suggest is being attained in other counties and districts by the combined co-operation of General Practitioners, Nurses, Health Visitors, Public Health Staff, Welfare Committees, and even Councillors. Immunisation is free and can be done by either the child's G.P. or at any Welfare Centre in the district. It is up to us to boost the scheme and encourage every mother in our villages and towns to have her baby inoculated against diphtheria before it attains its first birthday. The immunisation level of this child can then be kept up by a further inoculation at the school medical inspection around the ages of five and ten respectively. If every mother carried out this scheme we would never have any fear of the return of this deadly disease with its old virulence.

In view of the recent epidemic of Smallpox in this Country I think it is also relevant to mention the low figure of vaccination against Smallpox in the County as a whole, and especially in this District, which contains the home town of Jenner—the Berkeley General Practitioner who was the first person to discover the merits of vaccination against smallpox. As an honour to the memory of this great pioneer of Medicine we as individuals must see that we never have an epidemic of smallpox in Thornbury Rural District, and the only means of avoiding it in these days of fast travel by air and sea is to maintain a high rate of vaccination among the populace as a whole. There is no merit in waiting until cases arrive in the District and then all running to the vaccination centres which would have to be established. Vaccination can be carried out free of all costs by one's own General Practitioner and the reactions these days from the inoculation are so minimal as not even to worry the child or adult.

ANTERIOR POLIO-MYELITIS or INFANTILE PARALYSIS :

One very mild case of this disease occurred during January in a male child of eight months. He developed weakness in the Right Upper Arm which quickly made a complete recovery and the child did not even have to be removed to hospital.

MENINGITIS :

Three cases of this disease were notified during the year—one of them, when admitted to Ham Green Isolation Hospital was re-diagnosed as a Brain Tumour.

One of the others occurred in a female child of 1 3/12 years. She was admitted to Bristol Children's Hospital where the meningitis was diagnosed as influenzal in character. The child made an uninterrupted recovery with no sequellae.

The last case was admitted to Ham Green Isolation Hospital and diagnosed as a Meningococcal Meningitis. This was a male of 38 years who again made a complete recovery under the influence of the new drugs.

SCARLET FEVER :

During February, March and April there was a mild outbreak of Scarlet Fever involving 22 cases in Hortham Hospital. The Superintendent of the hospital kept me in touch with the epidemic right from the start and so we were able to keep it under control by isolating the patients in the villas where the cases occurred. Full precautions in relation to the spread of the infection were taken by the medical and nursing staff and all the cases made a complete recovery with no complications. The epidemic was thought to arise from a patient with a sore throat who was apparently a temporary carrier of the Haemolytic Streptococci—the germ that causes the disease. This again emphasises the difficulties in eradicating endemic cases of Scarlet Fever in an area when streptococcal tonsillitis is not a notifiable disease. I personally think it ludicrous to isolate cases of Scarlet Fever at home and to keep contacts away from school when children and adults with streptococcal tonsillitis can move about at will in public transport and places of amusement spreading the same germs that will cause Scarlet Fever in susceptible individuals.

This epidemic at Hortham Hospital shows how the Hospital Authority and the Public Health Department of the local Council can co-operate still in relation to stopping the spread of Infectious Disease.

In some areas, since the advent of the National Health Scheme and the separation of the hospitals from the administration of the Local Authorities, hospital medical staffs have been inclined to ignore the help which they had had in the past from the Medical Officer of Health and his staff. Fortunately this does not happen in Hortham Hospital and I think it most important that the co-operation continues in view of the number of part-time workers that these institutions are now bound to employ.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were also diagnosed by the Medical Officer attached to the Sea School at Sharpness—the T.S. Vindicatrix. Both these cases were removed, on diagnosis, from the School to Berkeley Hospital and thence to Ham Green Isolation Hospital. The Quarters and Sick Bay, on each occasion, were disinfected by the Public Health Staff.

DYSENTERY :

Five sporadic mild cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified from Hortham Hospital. There is always a reservoir for this type

of infection among mental patients and the disease is kept under control by swabbing all new patients on admission and periodic Swabbing of all those who are positive for the dysenteric organism.

ERYSIPELAS :

One case of this disease in an old lady of 84 years was removed to Thornbury Hospital for treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS :

During the year 1952, 48 new or transfer cases of this disease were added to the Register. There were eight deaths from the disease in the district but one of these was a transferable death to another area.

The average age of T.B. deaths was 47.3 years.

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year is :—

		Male	Female	Totals
Pulmonary ...	...	76	61	137
Non-Pulmonary ...	...	24	27	51
Total ...		100	88	188

This figure of 188 shows an increase of 16 on that for last year and may indicate that there has been more use made of Mass Radiography for early diagnosis. Certainly routine Mass Radiography surveys are now being carried out regularly at Hortham Hospital and also at the T.S. Vindicatrix, Sharpness. The last survey at the latter was carried out during December. 453 males and two females were X-rayed, and of these 16 were recalled for a large film. Two active cases of the disease were discovered among the boys and they were returned home for treatment in their respective areas. Four other non-tubercular conditions of the lungs were discovered in this survey requiring treatment.

35 cases were removed from the Register during the year as either cured, died or left the area.

The fact that there are still 51 non-pulmonary cases of Tuberculosis on the register and that each year it is added to, may indicate that there are still sources of bovine infection from milk being disseminated in the area. I look forward to the day when all the milk that is consumed in the Thornbury Rural District is either Tuberculin Tested or preferably Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested as there is far too much raw milk consumed which may at any time be infected with the Tubercle Bacilli. Let us hope that soon this will become a designated area where only cattle that are tuberculin tested can live and then we may gradually see a diminution in the non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis.

While safe milk is obviously desirable we can only anticipate as a result of such safety a limited fall in the incidence of clinical tuberculous infection. The human source remains infinitely the more important, and so we must examine the paths of prevention open to us.

Mass Radiography surveys can be criticised on the grounds that they are largely a discovering of tuberculosis victims who volunteer for examination, and that the sources remain hidden among the large percentage of non-volunteers.

Compulsory Radiological examination is quite readily accepted by Service personnel, intending emigrants and other sections of the public whose job depends on the X-ray findings, e.g., Nurses, Home Helps and employees working in Nurseries or Children's Homes. Until this compulsion is extended to deal with strategic age groups of the factory and office population and all "contacts" of the disease we shall continue to remain in ignorance of the sources of infection—an ignorance that would be considered intolerable in other killing infectious diseases.

The chronically infectious case, even if known, remains at complete liberty to work as he or she pleases in office, factory or pub, and only if engaged in handling milk or foodstuffs or dealing with children in an official position such as a Council school or nursery, is subject to coercion. On the home side there are the patients who, grossly infectious, refuse admission to or discharge themselves prematurely from Sanatoria, exposing their domestic contacts, especially children and young adults, to the gravest of risks; against such the limited legal powers of compulsory removal, though sometimes threatened, are rarely, if ever, invoked, as it is invidious for one area to create hostile patients.

There is at present in this County little recognition of the basic fact that the effective prevention of tuberculosis must necessitate some loss of individual liberty—a price that some other countries have felt worth while to pay and to inflict. Indeed, without further legalised control we have no reason to expect the disappearance of this disease from among our communities.

Nevertheless, with the aids we have to-day and continued education of the public in relation to the disease, there is still hope of eradication.

We must continue to get the public Mass Radiography conscious and to undergo the examination annually. B.C.G. Vaccination of all contacts, people in close contact during their work, and all school leavers should be enforced.

Councils must continue to rehouse tubercular families especially from overcrowded damp cottages.

Financial help, if necessary, must still be made by Voluntary Committees such as Thornbury and District Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, and Employers must be prepared to accept patients who have suffered with this disease and are cured, back into their old job without casting doubt on their health standard.

There is no doubt in my mind that with the funds, co-operation of Government Departments and Local Authorities we have now got to the stage when Physicians have the drugs to cure if only we can get rid of the sources of infection by the means I have enumerated above.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—								
1—	1	1						
5—	3	3	3		2			
15—	3	4	5	1		1		
25—	3	2		2				
35—	2	2	1				1	
45—	3		1		2			
55—	1				1			
65 and upwards					1			
Age unknown	1	5	1					
TOTALS	17	17	11	3	6	1	1	

PARATYPHOID FEVER :

During the early part of the year there was an outbreak of Paratyphoid B (phage Type 1) in Southmead Hospital. A patient from this district was exposed to infection prior to discharge from the hospital. At her own home she was given advice on the precautions to take and samples of her urine and faeces were taken for bacteriological examination. These were reported by the Bacteriologist to be negative, and so the patient was declared free from infection.

Another interesting case occurred in relation to this outbreak of paratyphoid B. A baby was born in the hospital on January 13th, 1952. On January 15th, 1952, he was admitted to Ham Green Isolation Hospital along with his mother. He was suffering from Paratyphoid B which had been transferred to him from another child in the Nursery. The mother developed symptoms of the disease in Ham Green and was also diagnosed as suffering from Paratyphoid B.

The mother and child were discharged from hospital on March 31st, 1952, as free from infection.

On April 15th, 1952, the baby was taken ill again with chest trouble and was admitted to Bristol Children's Hospital. Then on April 18th (after investigation) he was again transferred to Ham Green Hospital with Paratyphoid B. On April 24th it was confirmed that he had a Paratyphoid B. infection.

As the child was admitted to hospital on the second occasion from Thornbury R.D. the Ministry were notified on the weekly return dated 26th April, 1952. The Public Health Laboratory Service (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at Colindale began to take an interest in this case. However, on further investigation it was found that the notification

given to us was incorrect and that in fact the baby this time was suffering from Salmonella typhi-murium which is food poisoning type of organism.

He was discharged from Ham Green again on the 24th June, 1952, and when it was reported that he had arrived home I decided to check up on the home circumstances and the parents. Stool samples were taken from the father, mother and only child. On the 9th July, 1952, the Laboratory reported that the father and mother's stools were negative but the baby was again positive with typhi-murium organisms. After consultation with the Director of the Laboratory and the Superintendent of the Hospital, it was decided, as the baby was quite well and only a carrier of the organism that it was best to keep him at home under observation with regular swabbing and that the parents should be taught the rules of personal hygiene in relation to disposal of stools, washing of hands and avoiding contact between other babies and their own until such time as we could pronounce him free from infection.

Samples of the baby's stools were taken fortnightly and continued to be positive until 15th September, when we had our first negative report. After two further fortnightly negative results the baby was given a free bill of health.

During all this latter period as a carrier of the Salmonella organism the baby was quite fit, so this case only goes to show how dangerous can be a salmonella or Paratyphoid B. carrier if one has not got the co-operation of the patient and parents.

INFLUENZA :

There were three deaths from influenza during the year. These were all females over 50 years.

LEUKAEMIA :

A male aged 67 employed as an engineer died from this disease during the year as also did a housewife aged 37 years.

CANCER :

39 people died from Cancer during the year. The average age of these cancer deaths was 65.9 years. 13 of the cases were malignant neoplasms of the Stomach and 5 cancer of the Breast. These figures again emphasise the need for early diagnosis, regular examination by your General Practitioner when over 50 years of age and the fact that one should not wait for pain before going to the doctor. Surgery, if carried out early in both these types is now showing excellent results, and there is no doubt in my mind that a good few of those 18 cases would be alive to-day if only they had gone to the Doctor when the first signs or symptoms appeared.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)

Removal of Persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises.

During the year a number of cases were investigated by myself but it was not found necessary to take compulsory measures under the Act for removal. In each case persuasion worked and the old person was removed to a home or hospital for chronic sick.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) 1952

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY : Thornbury R.D. YEAR : 1952
2. FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)
RETURN TO R.G.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total outbreaks : Nil. Total cases : Nil.

Outbreaks due to :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	...	...	...	} Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	...	...	...	
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	...	...	...	
(d) C.I. botulinum	...	...	...	
(e) Other bacteria	...	...	...	

4. OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE : Nil.

Total outbreaks : Nil. Total cases : Nil.

5. SINGLE CASES

Agent identified	...	...	...	...	Nil
Unknown cause	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total	...	...	...	...	Nil

INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

These certificates have to be counter-signed by the Medical Officer of Health for the District in which the General Practitioner resides who has carried out the vaccination.

During the year 1952, eight of these have been stamped and counter-signed by me.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION AT MID-1952 FOR ALL DISTRICTS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In view of the proposed change of County District Areas for Medical Officers in the future, I thought it might be interesting to Councillors to publish the population of the County divided up into districts.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF POPULATION AT MID 1952

Urban				Total
Charlton Kings U.D.	...	...	...	5,814
Cheltenham M.B.	...	...	...	65,060
Cirencester U.D.	...	...	...	11,560
Kingswood U.D.	...	...	...	18,570
Mangotsfield U.D.	...	...	...	18,290
Nailsworth U.D.	...	...	...	3,630
Stroud U.D.	...	...	...	16,030
Tewkesbury M.B.	...	...	...	5,446
Total U.D.				144,400
Rural				Total
Cheltenham R.D.	...	...	...	24,010
Cirencester R.D.	...	...	...	17,690
Dursley R.D.	...	...	...	17,020
East Dean R.D.	...	...	...	20,330
Gloucester R.D.	...	...	...	38,370
Lydney R.D.	...	...	...	11,820
Newent R.D.	...	...	...	8,121
North Cotswold R.D.	...	...	...	21,520
Northleach R.D.	...	...	...	8,625
Sodbury R.D.	...	...	...	38,080
Stroud R.D.	...	...	...	27,240
Tetbury R.D.	...	...	...	6,964
Thornbury R.D.	...	...	...	25,310
Warmley R.D.	...	...	...	10,410
West Dean R.D.	...	...	...	17,890
Total R.D.				293,400
Administrative County				437,800

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

I have pleasure in submitting a meteorological report for 1952. This is a new addition to the Annual Report, and I believe that the data contained in it will be both interesting and informative.

1. Total rainfall : 33.08 inches.

2. Monthly rainfall :		Actual	Average (daily)
January	...	2.18in.	.07in.
February	...	.65in.	.022in.
March	...	2.41in.	.078in.
April	...	2.00in.	.066in.
May	...	3.81in.	.123in.
June	...	3.22in.	.107in.
July	...	1.88in.	.06in.

August	...	...	3.81in.	.123in.
September	...	...	2.95in.	.098in.
October	...	...	4.30in.	.14in.
November	...	...	4.10in.	.137in.
December	...	...	1.77in.	.057in.

3. Wettest day : 13.6.1952 — 2.03in. of rain.

It is surprising to note that the wettest day of the year was 13.6.1952, when 2.03in. of rain was recorded, yet in February, 1952, which was the driest month, an actual rainfall of .65in. was recorded.

4. Average Temperature during year (°F)
Max. 56/Min. 43

5. Average Temperature in months (°F)
Max. Min.
- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| January | ... | ... | ... | 43.3/33.9 |
| February | ... | ... | ... | 45.1/32.6 |
| March | ... | ... | ... | 51.1/39.7 |
| April | ... | ... | ... | 58.1/40.7 |
| May | ... | ... | ... | 64.8/48.0 |
| June | ... | ... | ... | 67.1/51.4 |
| July | ... | ... | ... | 70.9/55.7 |
| August | ... | ... | ... | 68.6/54.6 |
| September | ... | ... | ... | 59.6/45.9 |
| October | ... | ... | ... | 55.5/43.9 |
| November | ... | ... | ... | 45.0/36.3 |
| December | ... | ... | ... | 42.5/33.5 |

6. Hottest day : 1.7.52.

7. Coldest day : 5.12.52 (18°F)

8. Driest month : February, 1952.

9. Total hours of bright sunshine : 1498.6 hours.

10. Date of maximum sunshine in any one day and length of period : 23.6.52 (15 hours).

11. Sunniest month — June, 1952.

12. Prevailing winds during the year — Westerly.

The above information was obtained through the kind collaboration of The Bristol Aeroplane Company Limited, for whose assistance I express my thanks.

PART II.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Thornbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Time has come round once again for the preparation of an Annual Report, and this is the seventeenth with which I have been associated.

The progress of the last few years is being maintained in all aspects of the Department's activities. There appears, however, much to be done in the fields of providing new housing accommodation and dealing with unfit properties: the provision of sewage scheme for abating the many nuisances which exist throughout the district, and more positive progress in the implementation of the Southern and Central Water Scheme, which continues to appear as little more than a thin red line on the map.

The scope of the Department's activities can be gauged from the summary of Inspectors' visits, from which it will be seen that there has been a 50% increase in the total number of visits from 7086 during the year 1951 to 10671 during the year 1952. The increase in activities over the previous year largely taking place in the supervision of Public Conveniences, Refuse Collection and Disposal and new Building Work, and outstanding activities in the work of Pest Destruction, Inspection of Council Houses and Food Premises.

For the fourth successive year the number of bacon pigs slaughtered in the district has continued to increase. The total of 7950 carcasses is an increase of 2600 over the previous year, and this, coupled with the 100% detailed post mortem inspection involves a very considerable amount of work.

The effective work of Pest Destruction has continued with marked results.

Activities connected with the Maintenance of Council Houses, involving concrete paths, painting programmes and general maintenance has increased considerably, and it should be appreciated that during the course of painting contracts daily visits to each site are essential to ensure performance of the contract.

It must not be lost sight of that the increasing activities and scope of the inspectorate has thrown a considerable amount of extra work on the clerical staff. On many occasions it has been extremely difficult to keep up to date with all the work.

There have again been changes in the staff during the year, all of whom should be given credit for the work of the Department.

The unsatisfactory office accommodation which has been referred to in past reports has not yet been remedied, and it should

be appreciated that the present conditions are not conducive to the health, to the efficient working of the officers or to the interests of the Council.

SUMMARY OF SURVEYOR' AND SANITARY INSPECTORS' VISITS

Nature of Visit or Inspection	Totals
1. Water Supply	243
2. Drainage	241
3. Stables and Piggeries	29
4. Offensive Trades	—
5. Fried Fish Shops	4
6. Common Lodging Houses	—
7. Houses—Let-in-Lodgings	—
8. Tents, Vans and Sheds	114
9. Factories and Workshops	176
10. Canal Boats	3
11. Bakehouses	9
12. Public Conveniences	149
13. Theatres and Places of Entertainment	6
14. Licensed Premises	4
15. Refuse Collection	196
16. Refuse Disposal	6
17. Rats and Mice	1932
18. Atmospheric Pollution	2
19. Schools	14
20. Shops	15
21. Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	197
22. Sewage Disposal Works	93
23. Sewage Sampling	8
24. New Buildings	318
25. Drain Tests and Inspections	337
26. Inspections re Building Licensing	19
Under Public Health Acts	
27. Number of Houses Inspected	328
28. Re-visits paid to above houses	514
Under Housing Acts	
29. Number of Houses Inspected	71
30. Re-visits paid to above Houses	48

No. of Visit or Inspection.	Totals
Overcrowding	
31. Number of Houses Inspected	21
32. Re-visits paid to above Houses	1

Verminous Premises

33. Number of Houses Inspected	...	69
34. Re-visits paid to above Houses	...	18

Council Houses

35. Visits to Council Houses	...	3057
Re-visits to Council Houses	...	41

Infectious Diseases

36. Inquiries in cases of I.D.	...	110
37. Visits re disinfection	...	38
38. Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	8

Inspections in connection with food

39. Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	414
40. Visits to Shops and Stalls	...	44
41. Miscellaneous Meat Inspections	...	12
42. Total Meat Inspection Visits	...	86
43. Visits to Butchers	...	29
44. Visits to Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	5
45. Visits to Grocers	...	115
46. Visits to Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	10
47. Visits to Cowsheds	...	27
48. Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	...	92
49. Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	89
50. Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	129
51. Market Stalls	...	4
52. Restaurants and Cafes	...	26

Petroleum Licences

53. Visits in connection with Petroleum Installations	...	3
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Visits in Connection with Sampling

54. Milk—Bacteriological	...	66
55. Milk—Gerber Testing	...	4
56. Ice Cream	...	16
57. Food and Drug Samples	...	2
58. Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	11
59. General Miscellaneous Visits	...	1027

Total	...	10,671
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NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices Served	...	75
Statutory Notices Served	...	65
Prosecutions	...	Nil

HOUSING

The Council has spared no effort in its endeavours to secure the erection of the maximum number of new Council Houses, which is limited by the quota allocated to them as well as by such limiting factors as labour, materials and suitably serviced sites.

The programme has continued to be confined to building in the larger centres of population, and there is no doubt in my mind that development is already to a certain extent being hampered by the failure of water and sewerage schemes to materialise.

So far as it is within my powers to judge, the Area Lettings Committees set up in 1950 have operated satisfactorily. I would again draw attention to the fact that there is no points system in operation for the selection of Council House tenancies, although the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector in regard to certain cases are taken into account, and there is evidence of slightly improved liaison between the Committees.

Waiting Lists.

The number of applicants for houses in the various Lettings Committee Areas are as follows :—

	Existing Council Houses	Applications
1. Almondsbury	371	270
2. Redwick and Northwick, Aust and Olveston	94	92
3. Thornbury, Alveston, Rangeworthy, Tytherington, Oldbury-on-Severn	310	203
4. Falfield, Stone, Tortworth, Charfield, Cromhall, Ham, Hill, Rockhampton, Alkington	112	75
5. Berkeley, Hinton and Hamfallow	184	99
Totals	1071	739
Number of houses owned by Council at 31/12/1951		998
Houses erected during the year		73
Number of houses owned by Council at 31/12/1952		1071
Number of houses in course of construction ...		94

Slum Clearance, etc.

As a result of official reports to the Council statutory action has continued to be taken with a limited number of unfit properties. In view of the Minister's public declaration of the need to increase activities in this direction, the Council will need to consider the advisability of Slum Clearance—including Clearance Areas—as

soon as possible. There is ample scope for this in the town of Thornbury and in a number of villages.

The continued increasing cost of repairs and the inability or reluctance of owners to carry out urgent essential maintenance on the limited returns of the fixed rents, causes some owners to welcome a demolition order, and this increases the difficulties of the inspectorate.

The position under the Housing Act, 1936, is shown in the following table :—

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11	—	—
(b) Houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	4	15
(c) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	3	14
(d) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—	—
(e) Houses made fit as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12	8	25

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The following schedule based on the original Housing Survey, and amended as the result of action, gives a general picture of the housing conditions in the district, but regard should be had to the fact that the survey was made in 1946, and that many of the properties in Categories 3 and 4 should by now be relegated to Category 5.

TYPE OF PROPERTY				
Reasonably fit in all respects	Minor Defects	Requiring Repairs or appropriate for re-conditioning	Unfit for habitation beyond repair	TOTALS
Category 1	Category 2	Categories 3 & 4	Category 5	
692	2449	2341	253	5735

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Only one application has been received and despite all the difficulties of complying with the formalities it appears likely to eventually receive Ministry approval.

COUNCIL HOUSES

As will be seen from an earlier table, the Council now owns 1071 Council Houses.

The whole of the Council's property is maintained by local contractors. Day to day repairs are executed under orders from this department. Major works are carried out under contract.

During the year expenditure on Council owned property amounted to £8,947, made up as follows :—

Major works and improvements	£	s.	d.
under contracts	1882	0	0
Minor day to day repairs ...	7065	0	0
	8947	0	0

These repairs involved the issue of 1696 orders and 3057 visits.

The majority of the maintenance programme outlined in last year's report was carried out, and work is in hand to implement the 1953 programme. This work consists of concrete paths to 94 houses and the external painting of 265 houses.

The original long term programme for providing concrete paths has been completed, as well as replacing iron baths with porcelain enamel ones. During future years account must be taken of the need to keep the older houses up to date in respect of their fittings, such as cooking stoves, and installing services such as water and electricity to the small number of houses still without these. In addition, I think we can anticipate that there will be between 250 and 300 houses annually requiring external decorations.

The maintenance of the large number of Council Houses both in respect of day to day repairs and in the preparation of contract details has increased considerably and is continuing to increase.

The negligible amount of really genuine criticism that can be raised against the present arrangements in regard to the maintenance and repairs to Council Houses, reflects, in my opinion, the utmost credit on all concerned. The work at present involved is about as much as the present staff can cope with, and additional assistance will be needed in the very near future if their other duties are not to suffer.

To support this view, it must be appreciated that the older houses are now needing more extensive repairs, and the false economy in post war housing is now being experienced. Taking these factors into account with the continued increase of building labour and materials it is obvious that Council House rents will need to be still further increased.

BUILDING LICENSING

Costs of both repairs and erection of new houses has continued its upward trend. During the year there has been a relaxation of licensing control, and as a result less licences for repairs of properties has been needed, while 43 licences have been issued for the erection of new private enterprise dwellings.

There is now no waiting list of applicants for building licences, but the difficulty of applicants to obtain sites in certain areas is continuing.

WATER SUPPLIES

The area is covered by three statutory water undertakings :

- (a) The major portion of the district in the southern and central area by the West Gloucestershire Water Company;
- (b) A small area in the south by the Bristol Waterworks Company;
- (c) Five northern parishes by the Gloucester City Council.

All stages of the Gloucester Corporation scheme have now been completed. A large proportion of property owners are slow to avail themselves of the supply, and somewhat encouraged by the knowledge that the limit of cost recoverable by the Council if the work is done in default is £20.

A survey of properties on the lines of mains is in progress. It involves a great deal of detailed work both by the technical and administrative staff in scheduling, costing, service of notices, preparing plans and specifications, obtaining tenders and arranging for the work to be put in hand.

I reiterate the suggestion made last year that "in any future water scheme it may be advisable to investigate the possibility of laying service connections during the course of mains laying."

The scheme of the West Gloucestershire Water Company to serve the southern and central areas of the district has not yet materialised and this is referred to in my opening remarks.

It is most disheartening and exasperating to even contemplate the extremely lengthy and protracted discussions and negotiations which have still not succeeded in bringing into existence this urgently required scheme, and all the time with the knowledge that the estimated cost is increasing as the years go by. Many of our villages, rural houses, agriculture and the future development of the district is seriously affected by this long delayed scheme.

There continue to be eighteen Council Houses at Charfield, Falfield, Rangeworthy and Rockhampton where rain-water tanks provide the sole supply and have to be supplemented by hauling mains water by tanker lorry.

During the year 33 samples of water were obtained from 25 sources and submitted for analysis. These samples affected 30 properties. 5 sources were found to be satisfactory; 6 sources were improved by remedial works; 4 sources were unfit and will be remedied by mains water extensions and 10 were remedied by the provision of a mains water supply.

Most of the properties not connected with a mains supply obtain water from shallow wells, and the majority of these are polluted.

Parish	No. of Properties	No. of Properties supplied with mains water	Remarks
<i>West Gloucestershire Water Co. and Bristol Waterworks.</i>			
Almondsbury	2,232	2,194	Small mains extensions in hand
Aust	125	—	Mains supply required
Alveston	403	364	Extension of mains needed
Charfield	253	—	Mains supply urgent
Cromhall	182	114	
Falfield	121	7	
Hill	40	—	Mains supply urgent
Oldbury-on-Severn	172	—	Mains supply required
Oveston	378	284	Mains supply required
Rangeworthy	83	—	Extension of mains needed
Redwick & Northwick	498	498	Mains supply needed
Rockhampton	43	—	
Thornbury	883	727	Mains supply needed
Tortworth	54	—	Extensions urgently needed
Tytherington	173	168	
<i>Gloucester Corporation Area</i>			
Alkington	197	13	Connections are being made gradually and statutory action being taken.
Berkeley	331	242	
Hamfallow	272	100	
Hinton	440	188	
Ham & Stone	172	6	Mains recently laid
TOTALS	7,052	4,905	

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES IN THE THORNBURY RURAL DISTRICT

(a) West Gloucestershire Water Company.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,

66, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

Bacteriological Examination of a Sample of Water. Ref. G/MY/18 received 18.11.52 from WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER COMPANY. Labelled Frampton Pumping Station—Output Water. Tap in filter house.

Taken by W. Whittern. Witness: W. Anstee. Date 17.11.52. 10 a.m.

Number of colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml. Present in	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml. Absent from	3 days at 20°C. 0 per ml. Probable Number
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes			
Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

ROY C. HOATHER

24th November, 1952.

Bacterial Examination of a Sample of Water. Ref. G/MY/19. Received 18.11.52 from WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER COMPANY. Labelled 7, Severn Drive, Thornbury. Tap in scullery. Date 17.11.52. Taken by W. Whittern. Witness: W. Anstee.

Number of colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml. Present in	2 days at 37°C. 0 per ml. Absent from	3 days at 20°C. 0 per ml. Probable Number
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes			
Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

ROY C. HOATHER

24th November, 1952.

Analysis of sample of water received 13.1.53. Ref. H/WT/84
 from WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER COMPANY.
 Labelled Frampton Pumping Station. Water tap in filter house.
 Date 12.1.53. 10.16 a.m. Taken by W. Whittern. Witness
 W. Anstee.

CHEMICAL RESULTS EXPRESSED IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with very few mineral particles.
 Turbidity : Less than 3.
 Colour : Nil.
 Odour : Very slight chlorine.
 Taste : Normal.
 pH : 7.7.

Free Carbon Dioxide ...	...	...	...	8
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	650
Alkalinity as CaCO ³ ...	...	...	...	285

Hypothetical Combinations

Calcium Carbonate ...	...	...	...	160
Magnesium Carbonate	...	...	...	66
Sodium Carbonate ...	...	...	...	49
Sodium Sulphate	...	...	...	93
Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	45
Silica ...	...	...	...	12
Difference ...	...	...	...	10
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C	...	...	...	435
Hardness total	...	...	...	240
Carbonate ...	...	...	...	240
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	0
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.059
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.000
Metals :				
Iron ...	...	...	...	Less than 0.03
Other Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Fluoride (F) ...	...	...	...	0.5
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	0.10
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	0.22

29th January, 1953.

GORDON MILES

(b) BRISTOL WATERWORKS COMPANY

Telephone Avenue,
Bristol, 1.
Severn Beach

Input to
Company's mains
(at Barrow)

Chemical Analyses (Results in parts per million)

Total Solids	...	...	278
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	12.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	1.5
Saline Ammonia	...	...	0.114
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.054
Oxygen absorbed from	...	...	...
KMno4	...	...	0.55
Total Hardness	...	...	220
Permanent Hardness	...	...	60
pH	...	...	7.7
Free Chlorine	...	...	0.25

Bacteriological Analyses

Colonies per ml on Agar	...	...	...
3 days at 20°C	...	1	8
2 days at 37°C	...	7	7
Bacillus Coli per 100 mls	...	...	...
Typical	...	Absent	Absent
Presumptive	...	Absent	Absent

F. P. HORNBY,
Chemist

(c) GLOUCESTER CORPORATION

Report on sample of water taken from

- (1) Leathern Bottle Outlet.
- (2) Berkeley Police Station.

Chemical Analyses (Results in parts per million)

Total Dissolved Solids	...	...	327	312
Combined Chlorine	...	...	47	44
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	...	...	4.0	4.0
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	...	...	Absent	Absent
Mineral Ammonia as N	...	...	0.028	Absent
Organic Ammonia as N	...	...	Absent	Absent
Oxygen required to oxidise the	...	...	...	...
organic matter in 4 hours :	...	...	...	...
Temporary Hardness	...	...	145	115
Permanent Hardness	...	...	89	62
Total Hardness	...	...	234	166
Chloramine or Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...
as Chlorine	...	...	Absent	Absent
pH Value	...	...	7.6	7.7

Bacteriological Examination

Micro organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 22°C	51	8
Micro organisms in one cubic centimetre capable of growing on Agar at 37°C	8	5
No. of B.Coli per 100 c.c.'s ...	0	0

Remarks: The analyses show that these waters are satisfactory for the purposes of a public supply. They are derived from the Tewkesbury supply.

MERVYN D. TURNER.
Public Analyst.

27.5.52

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The lower tidal reaches of the River Severn form the western boundary of the rural district. The majority of the district is within the Severn Catchment Area, and a small portion in the south-east comes within the Bristol Avon Catchment Area.

The principal water course in the district is the Little Avon River, rising at Wickwar (Sodbury R.D.), passing through Charfield, Tortworth, Alkington, Ham and Stone, eventually discharging via Berkeley tidal pill into the River Severn.

During the year the sewerage of Sharpness and Brookend and Severn Beach has been completed. These discharge without treatment into the tidal River Severn.

Old sewers sewerage part of Berkeley and Charfield discharge crude sewage into the tidal pill and River Avon.

Foul ditches exist in many places, and speaking generally, one can say that wherever there is a community with a mains water supply and no sewerage scheme, foul ditches abound, and this area is no exception. A few of these are listed below:—

Aust	Halmore
Hallen	Purton
Almondsbury	Stone
Redwick	Berkeley
Olveston	Easter Compton
Alkington	Thornbury

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The position in respect of sewerage schemes is as follows:—

SHARPNESS AND BROOKEND (Parish of Hinton)

Scheme estimated at £26,200 by W. T. Nicholls Ltd.—
Completed.

SEVERN BEACH (Parish of Redwick and Northwick)

Scheme estimated at £42,800 by W. T. Nicholls Ltd.—
Practically completed.

THORNBURY

Modified scheme for enlargement of sewage disposal plant only, estimated at £23,000, by W. Bowers & Co., Ltd.—
Nearing completion.

ALVESTON

Scheme turned down by Ministry. Modified scheme to serve Housing Site at Quarry Road approved. The failure of the larger scheme to materialise will affect housing development.

BERKELEY

Scheme approved in principle and details submitted to Ministry and their decision is awaited. This is to replace existing defective sewers and to extend the drainage area.

It is urgently needed.

Details for the following scheme are still awaited from the Consulting Engineers :—

Tockington and Olveston villages (Parish of Olveston)

Upper and Lower Almondsbury (Parish of Almondsbury)

Wanswell (Parish of Hamfallow)

Charfield (Parish of Charfield)

Easter Compton (Parish of Almondsbury)

Throughout the district cesspits are emptied by private arrangement with two firms operating in the district.

Parish	Situation	Sewage Plant	Properties sewered	Remarks
Almondsbury	Hallen	Sewage Plant	14	Council Estate
	Patchway	Public Sewer	1,500	J't Sewerage Committee
	Easter Compton	Sewage Works	18	Council Estate
	Woodlands	ditto	7	Squatters Camp
	Cribbs Causeway	ditto	1	Public House
Alveston	Hortham Colony	ditto	1	Mental Institution
	Woodhouse Down	ditto	42	Council Estate
	Village	ditto	1	Hospital
	Greenhill	ditto	10	Council Estate
	" Silverhill "	ditto	1	Private School
Berkeley	Town	Old Sewers	290	Defective
	The Lynch	Sewage tanks	38	Council Estate
Charfield	Manor Lane	Sewage Plant	10	Council Estate
	Village	Old Sewer	20	Approximate only
Cromhall	Townwell	Sewage Plant	6	Council Estate
	The Huntsman	ditto	1	Public House
	Sundays Hill	ditto	6	Council Estate
	Eastwood Park	ditto	1	Home Office School
	Sharpness	New Sewers	200	Re-Sewered
Hinton	Purton	Old Sewers	20	Fouling Ditches
	Olveston	Sewage Plant	11	Council Estate
Rangeworthy	Olveston and Tockington	Old Sewers	50	Discharges to ditches
	Berrows Mead	Old Sewers	4	Council Estate
Rockhampton	Church View	Sewage Plant	4	Council Estate
		ditto	4	
Redwick & Northwick	Sewern Beach	Pumping Stn.	200	New Scheme
	Wick Road	Sewage Plant	18	Council Estate
Thornbury	Oldbury Lane	Sewage Plant	950	Enlarged
Tytherington	School	ditto	1	School
	Southlands	ditto	28	Council Estate
Tortworth	Leyhill Prison	ditto	1	Home Office Prison

All Council owned sewage plants are regularly serviced and well maintained. Two attendants deal with the Thornbury works and one mobile attendant services and maintains the Council House plants.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

In most of the rural cottages and villages the closet accommodation is very unsatisfactory. There is, however, a greater realisation evident among the public of the advantages of modern sanitation and conversions are steadily taking place.

Bucket closet contents are emptied weekly by the Council in the parishes of Berkeley and Hamfallow. The present method of collection by open topped trailer should be reviewed, as it is unpleasant and offensive.

Five earth closets have been improved and thirty converted to water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A combined kerbside collection of refuse and salvage is carried on throughout the district by direct labour.

This service is operated by a foreman/driver, three driver/loaders, five loaders, one refuse tip attendant, one baling attendant, and one mobile sewage works attendant.

The fleet of vehicles consist of :—

- 2, 10 cu. yd. Dennis side loading lorries.
- 2, 11 cu. yd. Ford side loading lorries.
- 1, 4-ton ex-Army Ford truck Lorry.
- 1, Land Rover.

The public cleansing staff are responsible for the emptying of closets in certain areas referred to in more detail under Closet Accommodation. They also undertake the regular servicing of Council House Sewage Plants and the cutting of large grass grown areas on a number of Council House Estates. The increase in these duties, coupled with the ever increasing amount of refuse that is now collected will soon be more than the present staff can cope with.

REFUSE TIPS

- (1) Oakhunger, Berkeley.

This is used for the disposal of refuse from the northern parishes. It consists of a disused clay pit.

- (2) The Quarry, Alveston.

This tip is in good condition but is only used during the winter months for refuse from the majority of Parishes.

(3) Littlewood, Cromhall.

This tip is used for refuse from Charfield, Cromhall and Tortworth.

(4) Morton Farm, Thornbury.

This tip consists of two farm ponds which the owner is anxious to have filled. They are chiefly used during the summer months.

(5) Walning Farm, Pilning.

A low-lying area is being filled up at the request of the farmer.

PARISH	PLACE	FREQUENCY
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Three successful prosecutions were instigated during the year for disturbance of tips by unauthorised persons.

REFUSE COLLECTION — FREQUENCY OF SERVICE

Almondsbury	Patchway, etc.	Weekly
	Lower Almondsbury	Twice Monthly
	Easter Compton	Twice Monthly
	Cribbs Causeway, etc.	Twice Monthly
	Hallen	Monthly
Alkington	Whole Parish	Monthly
Alveston	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Aust	Whole Parish	Monthly
Berkeley	Whole Parish	Weekly
Charfield	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Cromhall	Whole Parish	Monthly
	Part Parish	Twice Monthly
Falfield	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hamfallow	Whole Parish	Weekly
Ham and Stone	Whole Parish	Monthly
Hill	Whole Parish	Every Three Months
Hinton	Whole Parish	Weekly
Oldbury	Whole Parish	Monthly
Olveston	Whole Parish	Twice Monthly
Rangeworthy	Whole Parish	Monthly
Redwick &	Redwick &	
Northwick	Severn Beach	Weekly
	Northwick	Monthly
Rockhampton	Whole Parish	Monthly
Thornbury	Lighting Area	Weekly
	Other Parts	Monthly
Tortworth	Whole Parish	Monthly
Tytherington	Whole Parish	Monthly

SALVAGE

Efforts have been made to maintain our salvage returns. With the fluctuating price, markets, etc., it continues to be difficult to estimate as to the future.

The gross cost of the cleansing service during the year amounted to £7,170.

Salvage collected and sold :—				£	s.	d.
Metals	...	...	...	219	16	11
Rags, etc.	...	...	...	195	8	2
Waste Paper	...	...	...	870	2	0
				1285	7	1

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council provides and maintains four public conveniences, each with accommodation for Men and Women, at

Berkeley
Patchway
Severn Beach
Thornbury

Part-time cleaners are employed for each.

Ministry approval has been received to a scheme for the provision of a public convenience at Almondsbury Hill.

CAMPING

A considerable amount of camping is taking place in the district. The majority of the structures consist of permanently stationed chalets and trailer caravans. A proportion are permanently occupied.

There are 17 principal licensed sites with accommodation for 600 structures; in addition there are numerous other sites occupied by one or two caravans. At the height of the holiday season I estimate that there are 2,500 campers in the district. The Council has adopted Camping Bye-Laws based on the model form prepared by the Ministry of Health. The sanitary accommodation at the recently licensed sites is reasonably good, but the conditions on some of the older sites are very unsatisfactory.

A more strict interpretation and firm action by the Planning Authority and Council are in my opinion desirous.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

(a) Inspection of Premises

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	29	11	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforce- ment) Act, 1938 (b) Others	93	156	13	—
(3) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out- workers' premises) ..	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	112	185	24	—

(b) Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Prosecu- tions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	18	18	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drain- age of Floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conven'ces:					
(a) Insufficient ..	3	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	12	13	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ..	1	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	34	36	—	3	—

(c) Outworkers. Section 110 and 111.

Nature of Work (a) Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.

Number of outworkers on list required by Section 110 (a)—25

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

There has continued to be a substantial increase in the number of pigs slaughtered in the area, chiefly in the bacon factories.

The increase from 5350 in 1951 to 7950 during this year has meant an increase in the responsibility and time spent on this work, and the continuance of the 100% post mortem examination can, in my opinion, be regarded as an excellent achievement.

No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	6
No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses in regular use	...	...	2
No. of Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	33

Carcases Inspected	Cattle exclu'ng Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	1	1	7,950
Number inspected ..	—	—	1	1	7,950
CARCASES CONDEMNED :					
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	1	—	271
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with diseases (other than Tuberculosis)	—	—	100%	—	3.46%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	13
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	573
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	7.37%

CONDEMNED FOOD REGISTER

During the year the following weight of food was inspected and certified as unsound :—

Meat (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	9330 lbs.
Meat (Other Diseases)	...	...	...	1248 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Tins and jars of sundry foods	...	...	...	636 lbs.
Other foodstuffs	...	...	...	123 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
				11,338 lbs.

FOOD PREPARATION AND HANDLING

The Ministry's Model Bye-Laws were adopted in July, 1951. Owing to staffing difficulties little was done last year, but during this year there was considerable activity.

Up to the end of the year copies of the Food Handling Bye-Laws and notices drawing the attention of dog owners to the desirability of excluding dogs from food premises have been delivered to 74 shopkeepers in the district, and inspections were carried out at the same time.

In the majority of instances the premises were reasonably satisfactory, but action was taken in some cases with the following resultant improvements :—

Ventilation improved	...	...	...	4
Cleansing of premises carried out	...	...	...	3
New Fittings provided	...	...	...	2
Sanitary accommodation improved				
or provided	...	...	...	7
Refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	3
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	2
Hot water provided (washing facilities)	...	...	...	3
Mains water supply provided	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	27

A number of other improvements which were on order at the end of the year will be included in the 1953 report.

ICE CREAM

Four premises in the district are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, and 53 premises registered for sale, chiefly of the pre-packed product.

There was an increased number of samples taken during the year, a total of 83. Of this number 72 were satisfactory and 11 unsatisfactory. Of the unsatisfactory none were manufactured in the area, and in consequence the results were communicated to the area concerned with satisfactory results which became evident on re-sampling.

Sixteen of the total samples taken were also chemically analysed. In all cases they were above the standard. Some of these had remarkably high fat and non-fatty solid contents.

MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS

There was a substantial increase in the number of milk samples taken and submitted for analysis. A total of 97 milk samples and 1 bottle rinse were taken.

58 were of designated milks, 46 being satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory.

39 were of undesignated milks, 25 being satisfactory and 14 unsatisfactory.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples from producers and producer/retailers, the results were communicated to the County Milk Production Officers. They, however, rarely inform us of the result of their action.

In the case of retailers the unsatisfactory results were followed up and eventually satisfactory results obtained.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The excellent work of past years has been continued, and activities have increased. The number of premises inspected will be seen to be 429, while the total number of visits has increased to 1,932, as compared with 1,256 in 1952.

All sewers and sewage disposal works are tested, while treatment is carried out to schools and hospitals by arrangement with the authorities concerned.

Whenever time allows, farm inspections are made, and there is good liaison with the Agricultural Committee's Officer. A number of very successful treatments were carried out and appreciated by those affected. There is no doubt that the study and knowledge which is now available to Rodent Operators has made the work of pest destruction a "science" instead of the old haphazard job.

I would also like to place on record an expression of appreciation of the friendly and helpful co-operation that exists between this department and the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 PREVALENCE AND MEASURES OF CONTROL

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District..	18	6220	521	1225	7984
2. Number of properties inspected as the result of					
(a) Notification, or	16	79	4	22	121
(b) Otherwise ..	7	213	33	55	308
3. Number of properties found to be infested by rats	Major 4	3	4	5	16
	Minor 7	152	16	35	230
4. Number of properties seriously infested by mice	—	98	—	16	114
5. Number of infested properties treated ..	11	253	2	56	342
6. Number of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment ..					
(2) Structural Works, i.e.,	—	—	—	—	—
Proofing .. .	—	—	—	1	1
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken following issue of notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out					13

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE

A total of 95 licences were issued during the year. Close attention is given to all new installations.

SUMMARY

I hope this report, although brief, will indicate the scope of the activities of the department. At the time of going to print it should be recorded that a Public Health Committee has now been formed, and it may well be that this will have results beneficial both to the Council and the Department.

I will conclude my report by expressing appreciation to the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of the various Committees for their helpful attitude, and to my fellow Officers and Staff, all of whom have made the completion of another year's service a pleasure to me.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

R. HUNTINGTON

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